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5 STATES ACCOUNT FOR 72% OF DIRECT TAX

MAHARASHTRA, KARNATAKA, DELHI, TAMIL NADU, AND GUJARAT ACCOUNTED FOR 72% OF DIRECT TAXES AND 53% OF GGST COLLECTED BY CENTRE, THE GOVT SAID

TOP 5 states contributed ₹14.2 lakh cr of the total ₹19.62 lakh cr collected in direct taxes

FIVE southern states – TN, Karnataka, T'gana, AP, Kerala – contributed 25% to direct taxes and 27% to Central GST

The five southern states mentioned above received 15% from the Centre's divisible tax pool | PTI

PER CAPITA INCOME of six states Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh – exceed the national average of ₹1,88,892*

UP, Bihar and MP got 36% of tax that Centre shares with states. They contributed 5% to total direct tax collected by the Centre

*Source Economic Survey of Maharashtra

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OPPN PROTESTS

Assembly nod for Greater B'luru Governance Bill

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Legislative Assembly passed the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, on Monday amid opposition by BJP and JDS legislators, who staged a walkout alleging that the Bill to split BBMP into around seven civic corporations will lead to the destruction of the IT capital.

The House also passed the Karnataka Pawn Brokers' (Amendment) Bill, Karnataka Prohibition of Charging Exorbitant Interest (Amendment) Bill and the Karnataka moneylenders (Amendment) Bill.

After participating in the debate on the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, BJP legislators clarified that they will support efforts to strengthen BBMP, but oppose its division, which they said, will result in Bengaluru losing its essence as being one city. They proposed to have commissioners for different zones of BBMP for better governance.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka said the Bill is against the 74th Amendment of the Constitution and power will be concentrated with the CM, who is proposed to be chairperson of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), and not with the elected councils. P2

FIERY DAY ONE AS LANGUAGE ROW EXPLODES IN LS

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE three-language row hit Parliament proceedings on Monday as the Opposition parties and government clashed over the alleged imposition of the 'Hindi' language through the National Education Policy (NEP). House proceedings were adjourned for half an hour after DMK members staged protests over Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's remarks that the Tamil Nadu government was 'dishonest' on the issue of implementing the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme.

Privilege motion

DMK MP Kanimozhi on Monday submitted a privilege motion against Pradhan, accusing him of 'misleading the House' by making factually incorrect claims

Pradhan said the TN government took a U-turn on implementing the centrally-sponsored scheme, which envisaged strengthening the schools managed by central, state or local bodies. The minister said that the state government had agreed to PM SHRI scheme and several (DMK) MPs, who came to see him, conveyed this to him.

"But when they went back, they made a U-Turn. They are doing mischief with the life of the students. They are misleading the people and doing injustice to students of Tamil Nadu. They are undemocratic," he alleged.

Pradhan said Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin had also agreed initially but then "suddenly some super CM appeared and they took a U-Turn". The minister said there is still time for the TN government to sign the MoU on PM SHRI. "Today is March 10. We have still 20 days left in the month of March," he said. DMK MPs walked into the Well of the House and raised slogans. Congress MPs, too, stood up in solidarity, though they didn't go to the Well of the House. Notably, members from RJD, TMC and SP did not join the DMK in their protests.

Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House till 12 noon. As the House reconvened, DMK MP Kanimozhi said she was "very pained" by a word Pradhan used. "We have issues with the NEP... The three-language formula is not acceptable to Tamil Nadu," she said.

In his response, Pradhan said he should not have used a word for the members of TN, the state government, and its people. "I withdraw my word if it has hurt anyone," he said. Following this, the Speaker said the word will be expunged from the records. Kanimozhi said Pradhan's claim that TN government had agreed to sign the MoU for the PM SHRI scheme but later took a U-turn was incorrect. P5,9

Govt directs IPL to ban ads promoting tobacco, alcohol

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE Centre has urged the Indian Premier League (IPL) to ban all tobacco and alcohol advertisements, including surrogate promotions, within the stadium premises during matches as well as telecast sessions on the national television.

In a letter to IPL Chairperson Arun Singh Dhumal, the Director General of Health Services (DGHS), Prof (Dr) Atul Goel said, "IPL should strictly implement the regulations banning all forms of tobacco/alcohol advertising, including surrogate advertisements, within the stadium premises where IPL games are held". He added it is their social and moral obligation to promote public health.

"Cricket players are role models for youngsters for promoting a healthy, active lifestyle. IPL, being the largest sports platform in the country, has a social and moral obligation to promote public health and support health initiatives of the government," Goel wrote in the letter dated March 5, which was also addressed to BCCI President Roger Binny.

Canada PM-elect to reset India ties

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

IN a big push to ties that had deteriorated during Justin Trudeau's leadership, Mark Carney, set to become Canada's next prime minister, has said he would work towards rebuilding his country's ties with India.

Carney emerged victorious in the race to succeed Trudeau as Canada's next prime minister, securing 85.9% of votes in the Liberal Party leadership contest. Ahead of the elections, the former central banker addressed the issue of US tariffs on Canada during a media interaction in Calgary, Alberta, as Washington and Ottawa find themselves at odds over the tariff threat and a looming trade war.

"What Canada will be looking to do is diversify our trade relationship with like-minded countries," Carney said. "And there are opportunities to rebuild the relationship with India. There needs to be a shared sense of values around that commercial relationship. If I'm prime minister, I look forward to the opportunity to build that," he said.

Mark Carney

Trudeau had claimed last September of "credible allegations" suggesting Indian agents were involved in assassinating pro-Khalistan separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey, British Columbia. Since then, ties between the two countries nosedived. India outrightly dismissed the Canadian accusations, and said "Canada shared no evidence." The fallout resulted in both nations expelling diplomats in a tit-for-tat exchange.

Carney had previously led both the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England and also headed the board of Brookfield Asset Management, which has invested in India's realty, renewable energy and infrastructure sectors.

Canada hosts one of the largest Indian diaspora abroad. An estimated 4,27,000 Indian students are studying in Canada. Closer home, over 600 Canadian companies operate in India.

EXPRESS INTAKE

BIFFes: CM presents Shabana with lifetime achievement award | P2

Ranya in 15-day JC, close associate also arrested | P4

Koppal horror: Accused habitual offenders | P5

Rahul Gandhi seeks discussion on voters' lists in Lok Sabha | P9

Vanuatu orders scrapping of Lalit Modi's passport | P9

Vodafone Idea fails to meet deadline for bank guarantee | P13

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